

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2004. By the present Amendment, Figs. 8 and 9 have been labeled as prior art, as required in the Office Action. Accordingly, removal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Also by the present Amendment, the original claims 1-11 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 12-17 are provided. New independent claim 12 includes features found in the original claims 1, 2, 3 and 5, redrafted for clarification of the invention. New claims 13 and 14 correspond to original claims 4 and 6, again with appropriate amendments for clarification of the invention. Similarly, new independent claim 15 includes subject matter found in both original claims 7 and 8, again redrafted for further clarification of the invention. New independent claim 17 and dependent claims 20-24 have been drafted to define further features of the present invention.

Briefly, the present invention, as defined by newly presented claims, is directed to features of the present invention in providing different paths for transferring of transfer information depending on whether a buffer within a destination module can accept the transfer information. In particular, as set forth in the newly presented claims, a system such as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 (referred to solely for purposes of example) is provided in which a buffer includes a crossbar switch (e.g., 209 in Fig. 2) including a common buffer unit (e.g. 211) which can store transfer information when it is not possible for the buffer in a destination module (selected, for example, from among the destination modules A-H in Fig. 2) to accept the transfer information. More specifically,

when a buffer within a destination module cannot accept the transfer information, a path (for example, the path via the transferring buffer 301 in Fig. 3) is selected. On the other hand, when a buffer in a destination module can accept the transfer information, a path such as shown by numeral 319 in Fig. 3 is selected.

Reconsideration and removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection set forth in the Office Action is respectfully requested. By the present Amendment, each of the independent claims has been drafted to clearly define the role of the destination module in conjunction with a source module from among the plurality of modules defined in the respective independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and removal of this basis of rejection is respectfully requested.

With regard to the prior art rejections, at the outset, reconsideration and removal of the rejection of all of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the reference to Qureshi (USP 6,353,867) is respectfully requested in light of the filing of a sworn translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 11-44133 for the present application (see Appendix B). Regarding this, it is noted that the Japanese Priority Document No. 11-44133 for the present application was duly filed in the Japanese Patent Office on February 23, 1999. As such, this is prior to the January 14, 2000 United States filing date for the Qureshi patent. Accordingly, Qureshi is unavailable as a reference in the present application under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Regarding this, it is assumed that the use of the Qureshi reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) at the bottom of page 5 of the Office Action was a typographical error inasmuch as the actual issue date of March 5, 2002 for the Qureshi reference is subsequent to both the U.S. filing date and the PCT filing date for the present application. In any event, removal of Qureshi as a basis of rejection in the

present application is respectfully requested by virtue of the filing of the sworn translation of the priority document.

Turning to the other basis for rejection the claims of the present application over Hartmann (USP 6,018,782) and JP 1063616 (hereinafter JP '616), reconsideration and removal of these rejections is also respectfully requested. By virtue of the present Amendment, each of the independent claims 12, 15 and 19 clearly define the feature that the transfer path for transferring transfer information from a source module to a destination module is selected depending on whether a buffer in the destination module can accept the transfer information or not. It is respectfully submitted that neither of the cited references to Hartmann or JP '616 teach or suggest any such feature. In particular, neither of these references teaches or suggests the use of a common buffer operating in conjunction with a means for selecting a path for transferring information such that the transfer path will store transfer information in the common buffer when the buffer in the destination module cannot accept the transfer information, whereas the path selected will transfer information to the destination module when the buffer in the destination module can accept the transfer information. Accordingly, in light of these features defined by the newly submitted claims, reconsideration and removal of the rejections based on the Hartmann and JP '616 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this

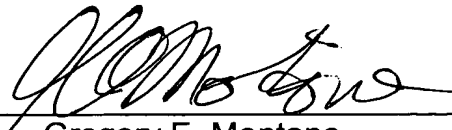
Application No.: 09/763,438

Docket No.: 500.39680X00

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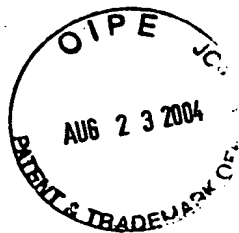
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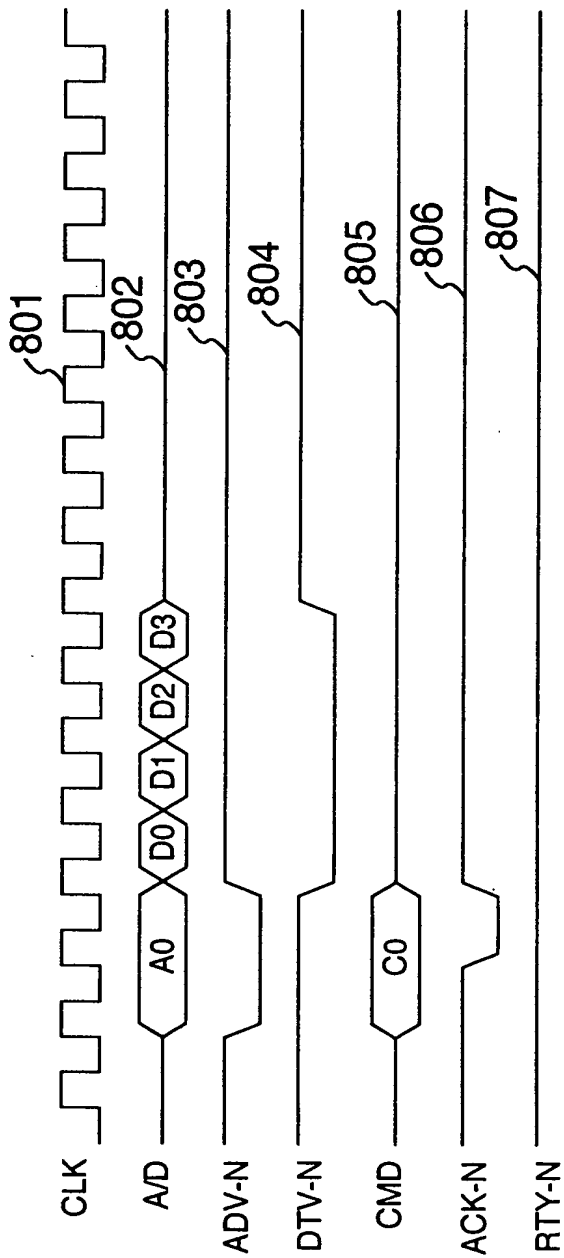
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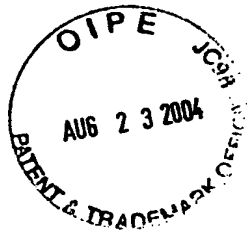
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FIG. 8 (prior Art)





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FIG. 9 (Prior Art)

